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DRF CONTRIBUTION TO SE-24: COMMUNIST CHARGES OF
US USE OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

March 17, 1952

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Division of Research for Far East

OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

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Tab: Chinese Communist and North Korean Propaganda on Bacteriological Warfare

The current Communist campaign, charging the US with large-scale bacteriological operations against north Korea and Communist China, began with a Communist New China News Agency report dated February 21 alleging that the US had used bacteriological warfare (BW) against north Korea in the period since January 28. At this time no charge of BW against China itself was published. (A listing of alleged "air violations" of Manchuria by the US planes during the first two months of 1952 broadcast by Pei-p'ing on February 20 made no mention of BW, although it charged that several localities in Manchuria were subjected to conventional bombing and strafing attacks.)

The initial charge of February 21 was given an unusual prominence for a Communist charge of this type on February 23 when Pak Honyong, the north Korean foreign minister, issued a lengthy protest against the alleged American "atrocities." On the same day the various "democratic" groups and personages customarily used in Chinese Communist propaganda campaigns ^{began to} issue "protests" against the alleged BW operations. On February 26, Pei-p'ing's foreign minister Chou En-lai specifically seconded Pak Honyong's protest. The campaign was quickly picked up in other satellite countries. In the Far East, the Vietminh radio broadcast the charges as early as February 24, although, to date, it has not amplified them into a major campaign.

A new and ominous note was injected into the charges on March 6, when the Pei-p'ing radio charged that on February 29 the US had utilized bacteriological weapons also against Manchuria. This charge became the basis for statements by Chou En-lai and the official Pei-p'ing People's Daily which charged that the US was using BW against Manchuria with the "obvious aim of wrecking the armistice talks in Korea, prolonging and expanding the aggressive war in Korea,

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and the instigating of new wars." These statements, subsequently amplified by other propaganda sources, threatened that American air-force personnel captured while "invading" Chinese territory would be dealt with as war criminals. The statements called upon "peace-loving people" to "rise up" and upon US "satellite" countries to protest against the "sinful designs" of the US Government.

On March 14 the Pei-p'ing radio extended its charges to China proper by alleging that the US had dropped infested insects in Shantung Province near Tsingtao on March 6 and 7, 1952. Charges of BW against China proper have not been further amplified to date.

Although Communist-originated news dispatches have described epidemics of various diseases, including types involved in the BW charges, in several north Korean provinces and in some areas of north, east, and central China, at no time has an existing epidemic been specifically linked to the alleged BW campaign. The Communist news dispatches give no indication that the described epidemics are more than those periodically expected in China and Korea.

date Following American proposals for an International Red Cross investigation, radio Pei-p'ing issued a strong denial that any epidemics had been caused by the alleged BW, stating that "epidemics have so far been prevented by the swift action of the authorities and the public." Pei-p'ing accused the US of trying to get the IRC into north Korea in order to "report on the effectiveness of germ warfare" and organized an international body of Communists to inspect and verify their charges.

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Although the BW charges will have inevitable repercussions in the cease-fire negotiations, there has been no major effort to tie the charges into the propaganda concerning the talks, other than to charge that the US is delaying the talks in order to complete its alleged BW experiments and to state that the Chinese and Koreans must not be dissuaded from continued efforts to strike "still heavier blows" against the American "aggressors." Nor has the BW campaign been closely connected with the other themes of Communist propaganda in Asia. There has been no effort to connect the BW charges with the charges that the US is plotting aggression in southeast Asia, nor have the BW charges been linked to the Sino-Soviet alliance. The charges of Japanese complicity in American BW research, that were prominent in BW propaganda campaigns in 1950 and 1951, have been repeated but the Japanese have not been charged with participating directly in the actual dropping of infested vermin or insects. The only Chinese Communist propaganda statement that linked the BW charges to the Sino-Soviet alliance, was one issued on March 10 by the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association in Pei-p'ing, which stated that "under the unity of China and the Soviet Union, any treacherous American scheme will be completely crushed." The absence of more prominent statements of this type in the present campaign is all the more remarkable in view of the extravagant emphasis given by Pei-p'ing to the strategic aspects of the Sino-Soviet alliance on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sino-Soviet treaty on February 14.

The Chinese Communist and north Korean propaganda has emphasized that "preventive" measures are being taken against the alleged BW campaign. In

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North Korea the Communist Military Committee on February 20 and 29 designated certain "danger zones" and ordered widespread anti-epidemic measures, including quarantine, inoculations, and sanitation measures, with communications priority for all "anti-epidemic information." In China "anti-epidemic teams" for Korea were organized in major cities, the first of which was reported to have arrived in Korea on March 3. Similar teams were apparently formed locally for use in the areas of China and Manchuria subjected to the alleged BW attacks. In addition a Chinese Communist investigating commission has been dispatched to Korea, headed by Mrs. Li Teh-chuan (Mrs. Feng Yu-hsiang), the Minister of Health of the Pei-p'ing regime.

The BW charges have received what is probably the heaviest and most continuous propaganda coverage of any recent Chinese Communist propaganda campaign. Almost a quarter of all recently monitored items on the various regional Chinese radio services dealt with BW charges. The treatment accorded the subject by Pei-p'ing has apparently been roughly the same, whether directed at domestic or foreign audiences. The coverage in North Korea has been similarly intensive.

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CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL SINO-KOREAN PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS ON
BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

February 21	First NCNA charge of BW used against Korea, itemizing alleged attacks between January 28 and February 17.
February 23	Statement by Pak Honyong, north Korean foreign minister, protesting against the alleged use of BW since January 28 against north Korea. First protests by Chinese Communist and pro-Communist organizations and individuals against the alleged BW, including the Red Cross Society of China. Editorial on BW in the <u>Pei-p'ing People's Daily</u> . Following this date, such protests became prominent in all Chinese Communist propaganda media.
February 25	Statement by Chou En-lai, Chinese Communist foreign minister specifically seconding Pak's protest.
February 29	North Korean Military Committee published anti-epidemic measures, including "Decision 65," adopted February 20, 1952.
March 3	reportedly First anti-epidemic teams/arrived in Korea from China.
March 4	First mention of BW artillery in Korea.
March 6	First NCNA report of alleged BW attack on Manchuria.
March 8	Chou En-lai and <u>People's Daily</u> statements on BW attack on Manchuria.
March 12	SSFA issued protest on BW with reference to Sino-Soviet "unity" -- only statement of this type to date.
March 14	NCNA reported that disease-infested insects were dropped in Shantung near Tsingtao on March 6 and 7

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